

Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my support for HB1532 as a means to acknowledge the investment that those of us who choose invest in our children's future via private schools and the future of all the State's children. First, let me say clearly that while my wife and I choose to send our children to private schools (Light of Christ Catholic Schools in Bismarck) we also want to ensure that the public schools in the State are very well funded and continue to meet the needs of our children's educational needs. I think it is the responsibility of all the citizens of the State to ensure this common objective. We chose private schools for a variety of reasons-our faith, small class sizes being amongst the greatest of our desires. But we don't believe that this alleviates our responsibility to contribute to the greater good of all the children in North Dakota.

I recognize this issue has arisen in recent years via legislative attempts and has often become polarizing as some choose to present the issue as being an attack on public schools. I won't attempt to diffuse that argument but will say, that some acknowledgement that those of us who choose private schools all the while providing for the public schools through our taxes would be appreciated. After all, we are paying taxes directly for services, that we are not utilizing. And, I would suggest even a modest tax credit or rebate may be a more desirable policy outcome than a notion of vouchers.

We appreciate your continued interest in this topic and appreciate your consideration of our perspective. In all, we must support the best possible education for the children of our State and I believe we can do so with some recognition that some, who voluntarily chose a different pathway for their children, are acknowledged for paying for their children's education and also underwriting the future of all our State's children.

Sincerely,

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